

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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INR/RSE:MMAUTNER/IMATUSEK
INR/RSE:JNORBURY
EUR/EE:CSCHMIDT
EUR/SOV:KBROWN
INR:PSTODDARD
EUR/RPM:TMSAVAGE
EUR/RPM:PSWIERS

-----045491 250300Z /70

P R 250201Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104874

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, UR, XH

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON ITALIAN ANALYSIS OF SOVIET FOREIGN
POLICY
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REF: USNATO 3856

1. FOLLOWING ARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON ITALIAN
PAPER (REF TEL). MISSION MAY DRAW ON THEM AS APPROPRIATE
IN POLADS AND CIRCULATE TEXT AS PART OF US CONTRIBUTION
TO PLANNED POLADS REPORT ON THE WARSAW PACT POLITICAL/

MILITARY CONSULTATIVE PROCESS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: COMMENTS ON ITALIAN ANALYSIS OF SOVIET
FOREIGN POLICY -- THE WARSAW PACT

A) WE UNDERSTAND THE BASIC THESIS OF THE ITALIAN PAPER
TO BE THAT MOSCOW'S DESIRE FOR GREATER COORDINATION WITHIN
THE COMMUNIST COMMUNITY IS CONNECTED TO ITS ULTIMATE AIM
OF USSR-EAST EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL INTEGRATION UNDER SOVIET
AEGIS. HOWEVER, WE THINK THAT ACTUAL PROGRESS TOWARD
SUCH A FORM OF INTEGRATION HAS BEEN MUCH SLOWER THAN MOSCOW
HOPED BECAUSE OF VARYING DEGREES OF FOOT-DRAGGING ON SOME
ISSUES IN EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS AND THE COUNTER-
BALANCING REQUIREMENTS OF THE OPENING TO THE WEST WHICH

THE SOVIETS HAVE HAD TO SANCTION AND, IN THE ECONOMIC
FIELD, HAVE EVEN AT TIMES ENCOURAGED.

B) THE SOVIETS:

-- HAVE EVIDENTLY ACCEPTED THE GLACIALLY SLOW PACE OF
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION;

-- HAVE MORE OR LESS ACHIEVED WHAT THEY WANT IN THE
MILITARY FIELD; AND

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-- CLEARLY WANT A GREATER MEASURE OF COORDINATION IN
IDEOLOGY AND IN FOREIGN POLICY.

C) IN ORDER TO COUNTERACT THE INCREASING DIVERSITY
WITHIN THE COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT, THEY WANT
THAT COORDINATION TO BE AS INSTITUTIONALIZED AS POSSIBLE.
HOWEVER, THEY HAVE SO FAR HAD TO SETTLE FOR THE LOWEST
COMMON DENOMINATOR IN TRYING TO ARRIVE AT COMMON,
COORDINATED POSITIONS AND EVEN THEN CANNOT ALWAYS COUNT
ON WHOLEHEARTED ADHERENCE, CERTAINLY NOT IN THE CASE OF
ROMANIA. WE DO NOT THINK THAT THIS INSTITUTIONALIZATION
IS CHANGING THE CHARACTER OF THE WARSAW PACT, SINCE THAT
ALLIANCE HAS ALSO BEEN POLITICAL FROM THE TIME OF ITS
FOUNDING, BUT IT IS MAKING COORDINATION ON PRACTICALLY
ANY ISSUE MORE DIFFICULT.

END TEXT

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